

Evaluating “POSITIVE CHOICES”

A Abstinence–Until–Marriage Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program

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BACKGROUND

- 47.8% of high school students nationally have had sexual intercourse ^[1].
 - 66.5% of Blacks students
 - 43.7% of White students
- 1 in 3 females become pregnant at least once before age 20 ^[2]
- 800+ children are born to teen parents in Lucas County annually ^[3]
- Highest teen pregnancy rates, up to 33.3%, are in the economically challenged central city area that surrounds St. Vincent ^[3]

PROGRAM – POSITIVE CHOICES

- Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center, Toledo, OH
- Since 1996
- Primary abstinence-until-marriage teen pregnancy prevention program
- Implemented in collaboration with schools and community organizations in Northwest Ohio
- Provides adolescents with accurate information related to the social, psychological and health gains of abstaining from sexual activity until marriage
- Serves
 - youth ages 12-18
 - high-risk teens in schools with predominantly low-income
 - students with special needs
- **In-school Program**
 - Grades 7, 9, 11
 - 8 to 12 weeks, weekly during the school-day
 - Teaches abstinence-until-marriage, healthy relationships, healthy marriages
 - Uses the A – H Guidelines (Title V, section 510 legislation)
- **After-school & Summer Programs**
 - Weekly educational sessions
 - Activities
 - At Neighborhood sites
 - Promotes abstinence-until-marriage
- Peer Education & Mentoring
- Parent Involvement
- Currently funded by the Department of Health & Human Services – Administration for Children & Families, Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) Program grant # 90AE0269



PURPOSE

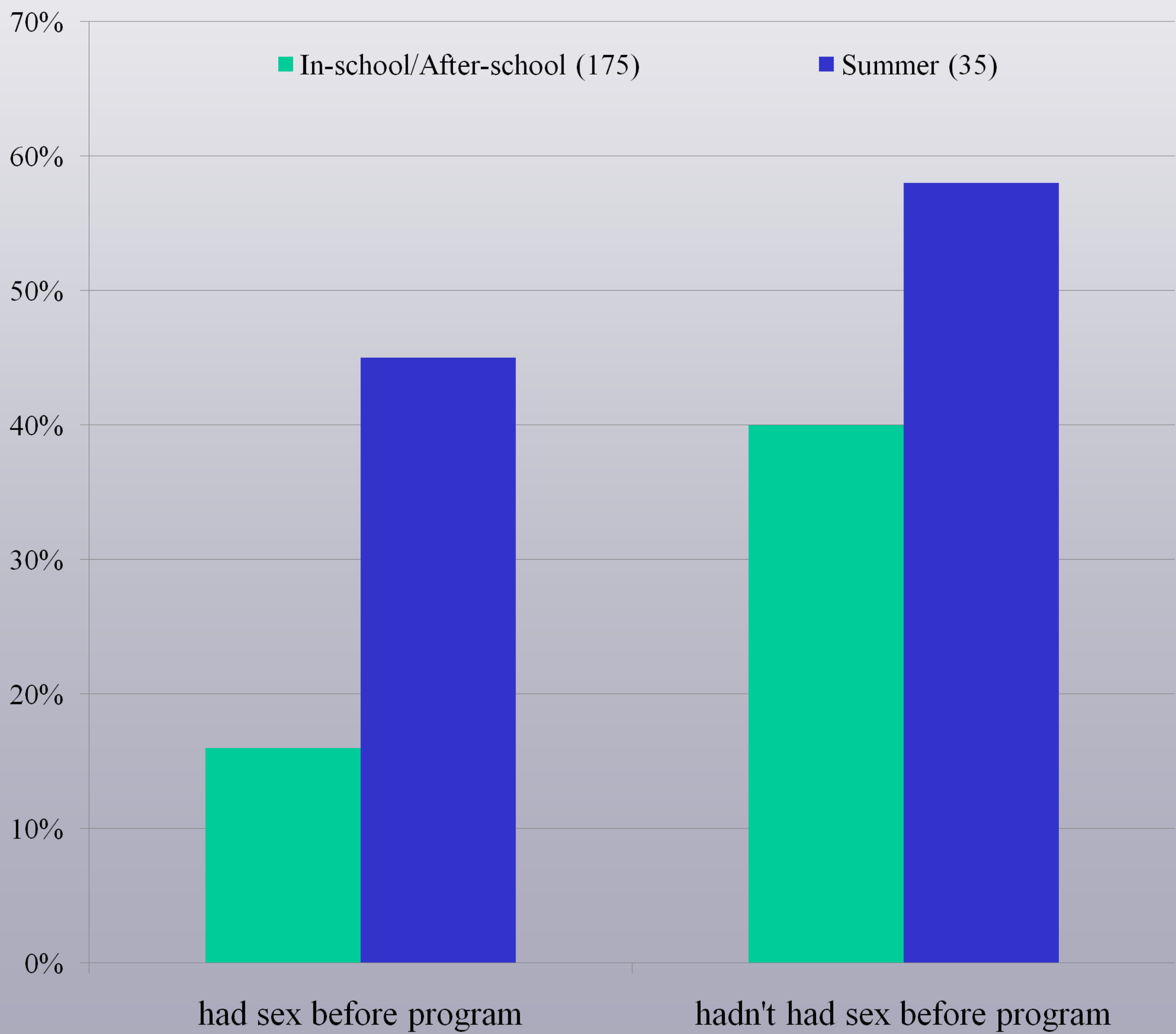
To share the results of the program’s rigorous and quantitative program evaluation from year 1 of the current grant

EVALUATION DESIGN

- **Reporting Period:** 10/1/2008 to 9/29/2009
- **Process Evaluation**
 - Implementation activities
 - Dosage (number individuals served, hours of service provided)
- **Outcome Evaluation**
 - Pre-post design to examine changes in
 - Knowledge of the benefits of sexual abstinence
 - Level of commitment to abstinence-until-marriage
 - Sexual Behaviors
 - Survey
 - Self-report
 - Before & after programming
 - Core CBAE items
 - 5 additional questions
 - Control schools (year 2)
- **Statistics**
 - Descriptive statistics and multivariate logistic models to explore client factors associated with commitment to abstinence and ever having sexual intercourse as reported after the program

COMMITMENT TO ABSTINENCE AFTER PROGRAMMING

% of Students who Agreed that “It is important to me to wait until marriage before having sex.”



NUMBERS SERVED

- In-school Programs - 385 students
 - 80% completed 75% or more of the program
 - 199 were classified as economically disadvantaged
- After-school & Summer Programs - 346 students
- Parents – 392
- One-time Presentations – 2551 participants

ASSOCIATIONS WITH OUTCOMES

➤ Pre & post surveys available for 175 in-school/after-school students (35 summer students), primarily Black youth, mean age 14, 40% economically disadvantaged

Model for Factors Associated with Commitment to Abstinence (as reported after programming)	Odds Ratio [95% CI]	P-value
Female	3.2 [1.4 – 7.5]	0.008
Did not have sex before program	2.1 [1.0 – 4.3]	0.04
Summer program	2.2 [1.0 – 4.9]	0.06

Model for Factors Associated with Having Sexual Intercourse (as reported after programming)	Odds Ratio 95% CI]	P-value
Economically disadvantaged school (school with >70% of students living in poverty or receiving free lunch)	2.6 [1.1 – 6.1]	0.02
Age (per year increase)	1.8 [1.4 – 2.3]	<0.001

CONCLUSIONS

- Over half of the youth had already had sex before programming.
- Early evidence suggests that the program may be effective in improving youths’ knowledge of the benefits of abstinence.
- Data from this limited sample have not yet been able to show substantial improvements in attitude or behaviors using this survey instrument.
- Economically disadvantaged and older youth were significantly more likely to report having had sex following the program.
- Males and youth who had sex before programming were significantly less likely to commit to abstinence.

REFERENCES

1. 2007 National Youth Risk Behavior Survey
<http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/yrbs/trends.htm>
2. National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2006
3. Lucas County Family Council, 2007

